



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
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Planting Intentions

UTAH: According to the Utah Field Office of USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, Utah farm operators, as of March 1, 2008 intend to plant more acres of all wheat. Spring wheat planting intentions were up, but winter wheat acres planted were down from 2007 growing season. Planting intentions for oats are at the same level as last year. Barley intentions are slightly lower than last year's level. **Corn** growers intended to plant 70,000 acres the same as the previous year. **All wheat** planting intentions were estimated at 150,000 acres, 4,000 acres more than last year. **Winter wheat** planting at 130,000 acres is 4 percent lower than the previous year. **Spring wheat** planting is expected to total 20,000 acres, up 82 percent from 2007. If current grower intentions are realized, Utah farmers will plant 35,000 acres of **oats**, equal to last year. **Barley** planting intentions at 37,000 acres, are down 1,000 acres from last year. Planting intentions for **dry edible beans** are 2,000 acres, an increase of 500 acres from last year.

UNITED STATES: **Corn** growers intend to plant 86.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2008, down 8 percent from last year when corn planted area was the largest since 1944. Expected acreage is down from last year in most States as favorable prices for other crops, high input costs for corn, and crop rotation considerations are motivating some farmers to plant fewer acres to corn. Despite the decrease, corn acreage is expected to remain at historically high levels as the corn price outlook remains strong due in part to the continued expansion in ethanol production. **All wheat** planted area is estimated at 63.8 million acres, up 6 percent from 2007. The 2008 winter wheat planted area, at 46.8 million acres, is 4 percent above last year and up slightly from the previous estimate. Of this total, about 32.5 million acres are Hard Red Winter, 10.7 million acres are Soft Red Winter, and 3.63 million acres are White Winter. Area planted to other spring wheat for 2008 is expected to total 14.3 million acres, up 8 percent from 2007. Of this total, about 13.6 million acres are Hard Red Spring wheat. The intended Durum planted area for 2008 is 2.63 million acres, up 22 percent from the previous year. **Oats:** Growers intend to plant an estimated 3.42 million acres, down 9 percent from the 3.76 million acres planted in 2007 and the lowest level on record. Most of the decrease in acreage of oats is expected to be in the Great Plains States. Acreage intentions declined in 15 of the 30 estimating States. The largest acreage decline is expected to occur in South Dakota, where growers intend to plant 200,000 acres this year, 130,000 fewer than were planted in 2007. Prospective oat acreage in North Dakota declined 110,000 acres. The largest expected increase in acreage from last year is in California, where an additional 50,000 acres of oats are expected to be sown. **Barley:** Growers intend to plant 4.15 million acres for 2008, up 3 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the fourth lowest barley planted acreage on record. In North Dakota, the largest barley-producing State, expected planted area is 1.55 million acres, up 5 percent from 2007. Growers in California, Wyoming, and Virginia intend to increase their acreage by 35 percent or more. In Michigan, New York, and Utah, acreage is expected to decline to record low levels and Nevada producers intend to match their lowest acreage on record established last year. **Dry Beans:** Growers intend to plant 1.40 million acres in 2008,

down 8 percent from last year and 14 percent below 2006. The decrease in planted acres can be mainly attributed to higher prices for competing crops and lack of soil moisture in some States. Expected area planted for all chickpeas is 98,500 acres, down 22 percent from last year and 28 percent lower than 2006. Small chickpea area, at 15,400 acres, is 39 percent higher than 2007 but 11 percent lower than 2006. Large chickpea acreage is expected to be 27 percent less than last year and 30 percent lower than 2006. Small chickpeas are defined as peas that will pass through a 20/64 inch round hole screen.